

IN THE CLAIMS:

The text of all pending claims, (including withdrawn claims) is set forth below. Cancelled and not entered claims are indicated with claim number and status only. The claims as listed below show added text with underlining and deleted text with ~~striketrough~~. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (original), (currently amended), (cancelled), (withdrawn), (new), (previously presented), or (not entered).

Please AMEND claims 14, 18 and 21 in accordance with the following:

1. (Cancelled)
2. (Previously Presented) The optical disc of claim 4, wherein the sheet has an annular shape.
3. (Cancelled)
4. (Previously Presented) An optical disc, for information recording and/or reproduction using light, having a center hole, the disc being divided into a clamping area adjacent to and surrounding the center hole, a data area in which data is recorded, and a lead-in area between the clamping area and the data area, the optical disc comprising:  
at least one sheet attached to the clamping area to prevent generation and development of cracks near the center hole, the clamping area being recessed such that a surface of the sheet attached to the clamping area is level with or lower than a surface of the lead-in area.
5. (Cancelled)
6. (Previously Presented) The optical disc of claim 4, wherein the sheet is of paper or other frictional flexible materials.
7. (Previously Presented) The optical disc of claim 4, wherein the sheet is attached to the clamping area using an adhesive or a double-sided tape.
8. (Previously Presented) The optical disc of claim 4, wherein the clamping area is recessed by a depth equal to or greater than a thickness of the sheet.

9. (Previously Presented) The optical disc of claim 4 wherein the sheet does not protrude above a top surface of the optical disc.

10. (Original) The optical disc of claim 8, wherein the sheet does not protrude above a top surface of the optical disc.

11. (Cancelled)

12. (Previously Presented) The optical disc of claim 14, wherein the material has an annular shape.

13. (Cancelled)

14. (Currently Amended) An optical disc having a center hole, the disc being divided into a clamping area adjacent to and surrounding the center hole, a data area in which data is recorded, and a lead-in area between the clamping area and the data area, the optical disc comprising:

a material attached to a surface of the clamping area of the optical disc ~~in an area surrounding the center hole to prevent generation and development of cracks near the center hole, the surface of the area surrounding the center hole to which the material is attached~~clamping area being recessed such that a surface of the sheet is level with or lower than a surface of the disk ~~where the material is not attached~~lead-in area.

15. (Cancelled)

16. (Previously Presented) The optical disc of claim 14, wherein the material is paper or other frictional flexible materials.

17. (Previously Presented) The optical disc of claim 16, wherein the material is attached to the area surrounding the center hole using an adhesive or a double-sided tape.

18. (Currently Amended) The optical disc of claim 16, wherein the clamping area to which the material is attached is recessed by a depth equal to or greater than a thickness of the

material.

19. (Previously Presented) The optical disc of claim 14, wherein the material does not protrude above a top surface of the optical disc.

20. (Previously Presented) The optical disc of claim 18, wherein the material does not protrude above a top surface of the optical disc.

21. (Currently Amended) An optical disc having a center hole, a clamping area adjacent to the center hole, ~~and a data area in which data is recorded~~ and a lead-in area between the clamping area and the data area, the optical disc comprising:

at least one paper-like sheet attached to the clamping area and surrounding the center hole to prevent generation and development of cracks in the optical disc, the clamping area being recessed such that a surface of the paper-like sheet attached to the clamping area is level with or lower than a surface of the lead-in area.

22. (Previously Presented) The optical disc of claim 21, wherein the paper-like sheet is made of paper.

23. (Previously Presented) The optical disc of claim 21, wherein the height of the paper-like sheet which protrudes above the clamping area, including a thickness of an adhesive applied thereto, may be no greater than 0.3mm.